

RINALDI

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(ESPIONAGE)

TURIN, ITALY--ALLEGED MASTER SOVIET SPY GIORGIO RINALDI REFUSED TO UNDERTAKE ANY ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD HAVE HARMED HIS NATIVE ITALY, HIS ATTORNEY SAID TODAY.

RINALDI, ARRESTED MARCH 15 WITH HIS WIFE AND CHAUFFEUR, SPILLED DETAILS OF A MASSIVE SOVIET SPY RING, WHICH HE SAID INVOLVED 300 PERSONS IN AN OPERATION EXTENDING FROM SCANDINAVIA TO NORTH AFRICA.

HIS LAWYER, GIORGIO DELGROSSO, SAID HE READ 50 PAGES OF CHARGES AND TESTIMONY AGAINST THE RINALDIS AND FOUND MANY ELEMENTS IN THEIR FAVOR.

"FOR INSTANCE, WHEN RINALDI WAS ASKED TO COLLABORATE WITH THE SOVIET ESPIONAGE SYSTEM, HE STIPULATED AS A FIRST, ABSOLUTE CONDITION THAT HE SHOULDN'T BE ASKED TO DO ANYTHING HARMFUL TO THE ITALIAN NATION," DELGROSSO SAID.

"IN CONTRAST, HE SAID HE WOULD BE EXTREMELY HAPPY TO ACT AGAINST SPAIN BECAUSE OF HIS FIRM ANTI-FRANCO STAND."

3/25--MJ1018AES

Comment:

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.